



Hello DDS Families,

Welcome to February! February is a month when we think of kindness more than usual. As part of this month's theme of Friendship, we are celebrating the week of February 12-17th as Kindness Week. We will be challenging students with some Random Acts of Kindness activities that focus on being kind to each other, giving back, and building each other up.

Pink Shirt Day is always on February 22nd, however, this is a non-instructional day for us this year. As a result, we will be recognizing Pink Shirt Day on February 28th instead. We strongly encourage all students and staff to wear pink on this day if they can. Pink Shirt Day originated in 2007 when some students stood up to bullies after a new student at their school had been bullied for wearing a pink t-shirt. During the day we will work with students about the importance of respecting each other. We will remind them of the importance of turning to a friend, parent, teacher or other responsible adult when they feel that they are being bullied.

Alberta Education Assurance Survey

Each year, the government shares surveys with students, parents and teachers to gather feedback on the quality of education provided by school authorities and their schools. Schools and school authorities use the results to identify areas for improvement and to help build their education plans. It is that time of year again! Starting February 6th, parents with students in grades 4 - 12 will start receiving survey packages by mail from Alberta Education for the 2024 Assurance Survey. Parents can either complete the surveys online or return completed paper copies directly to Alberta Education. Please take a few moments to complete this survey - your participation supports local and provincial planning and is very important to us.

Here are some important notes for parents regarding the survey:

1. The survey package will include:
 - * a copy of the Education Minister's letter
 - * a Random Access Code for accessing the survey online and instructions for accessing the survey in other languages, if needed.

Once you receive your Random Access Code you can start the survey using this link:

<https://public.education.alberta.ca/APOS/>

2. Parents with more than one student in the relevant survey grades will receive a separate survey package and Random Access Code for each child.
3. The survey will remain open until **March 1st, 2024**.

Students in grades 4 - 6 will complete their surveys during class time.

Thank you again to our families who support our school and students, and we look forward to what February will bring to our community!

Yours in learning,

Mrs. McGregor





Grade 5 enjoying floor hockey on Monday January 15 when busses were canceled due to extreme cold weather.
2 on 2 skeleton crew!



Student of the Week

January 19, 2024

- Kindergarten Georgia
- Kindergarten Jason
- Grade 1 Sophia
- Grade 1 Jason
- Grade 2 Finley
- Grade 3 Hadley
- Grade 3 Mea
- Grade 4 Abby
- Grade 5 Chandre
- Grade 5 Rhys
- Grade 6 Mark



*Keep Up the
Good Work!*

The Grade 4's hosted the January 19th assembly.
The class did a fantastic job leading!

Appreciation Strategy Humility
Commitment Responsibility Listening
Leadership
Integrity Honest Communication
Values Purpose Determination
Passion Principles



January 19, 2024
Spirit Cup Winners



Kindergarten News

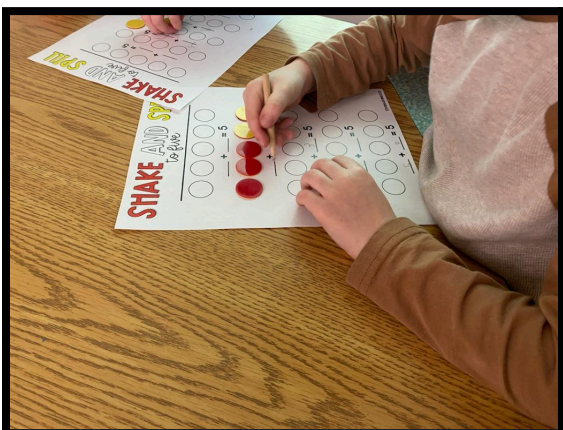
Happy 2024! What a great start to the year we have had in Kindergarten!

Here's a quick glance at what we have been learning:

- We have started to work more with letter sounds at the beginning and end of words. Ask your student what sounds they hear at the beginning and end of words to help them review at home.
- We have started to review the alphabet and practice printing our capital letters. Students will be bringing home a capital letter page everyday—this is just extra practice & not homework. You do not have to send it back to school.
- Mrs. McGregor has joined us for centers to help us with our writing. Mrs. Rhiece has joined us to teach about her “WorryWoo” friends, and teach us about how to manage our strong emotions.
- In Math, we learned:
 - The basics about measuring length, area, and volume! Ask your student about the fun learning activities to talk about these concepts.
 - We used different manipulatives (like a 10 frame and counters) to see the different combinations we can have to make 5.
- In Social Studies, we have been talking about what makes ourselves and our classmates *unique*. Check the red folders next week to see the project students will be working on at home to share about themselves at school.
- In PE, we have talked about what it means to play fair and practiced these skills by playing some teamwork challenges and games with more instructions. Our new favorite is Turtle Tag!



Thanks so much,
Mrs. Becker



Grade 1 News

January has come and gone in a blur! After having a very restful Christmas break, all of the Grade 1s came back ready to pick up where they left off and have been working extremely hard.

We completed our Grade 1 Provincial Assessments just after we returned to school.

We are continuing to learn more “Secret Stories” in our Literacy to help us increase our reading and writing skills. In Numeracy, we are now working on our basic addition and subtraction skills. We are moving into our second round of reading assessments in preparation for our next report card.

We have enjoyed some fabulous hot lunches and we would like to thank all the amazing moms that make our delicious hot lunches possible. We would also like to thank Miss Elaschuk for our hot dog lunches. Who doesn't love a good hot dog?

We are looking forward to our 100th Day of School on February 14th, as well as Valentine's Day! We love celebrating how much we adore our classmates!

We would also like to send the most heartfelt THANK YOU to Mrs. V and Mrs. Guenther for always helping us out in Grade 1!

Please try to take some time to listen to your child read in the evenings, you will be amazed at how far they have come! Our Grade 1s are AMAZING kids!



Mrs. McLeod & Mrs. Nish



Watch for information coming soon about our Book Fair in March! 🎉📚🎉



Grade 2 News

January has been so much fun! We have been back in the swing of things - despite the cold and snowy weather some days. Hopefully our groundhog this month determines that spring is almost upon us!

Math

We are reviewing our adding to 20 skills - making ten, doubles, and counting on. In February we are going to start adding two and three digit numbers.

Language Arts

We are working on Informative Writing - fact books! We are practicing reading a non-fiction book as a class, making note of important facts, and re-writing our books with a topic sentence, three fact paragraphs, and a closing sentence. We have already learned so much about jellyfish and orcas!

We are reading Charlotte's Web and we love it! In class, we are practicing word endings and adding suffixes like ed, ing, and er.

Wellness

Basketball has been a ton of fun! We learned the rules of basketball and have been practicing our dribbling, passing, and shooting skills. In health, we finished Healthy Eating. We are starting to learn how to take care of our bodies when sick.

Science

We will be finishing up materials and will start our unit on Earth science - learning about how the Earth, sun, and water work.

Social

We are in Meteghan, learning about the Acadians, Mi'kmaq, and British. We are learning what the geography is like, things to do, and daily life in Nova Scotia.

Can you believe it is almost 100s day? I can't wait! I'm also excited for our Valentine's day party and spending more time with our class.

Keep up the good work Grade 2!
Miss Giesbrecht



Grade 3 News



January seemed to fly by! I cannot believe we're heading into February already!

In Language Arts students practiced writing paragraphs, complete with topic sentences, supporting details and concluding sentences. Our goal last month was to write a variety of paragraphs to practice, practice, practice! This skill will be used in our current unit where students are writing information books that will be published and shared with classmates. All students will be choosing a topic that they are experts on and are writing to teach information to others.

We are currently reading *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* so soon we will be watching the movie to see what similarities and differences there are between the written and media forms. Students will compare the two using a Venn diagram and sharing what they found with classmates at the end. We will also continue reading self-selected books to practice our reading strategies.

I have really seen students practicing their words for our weekly spelling assessments and they have also been telling me that they like choosing a few of their own words to challenge themselves. Great job, Grade 3s and congratulations to Zara and Blayde for achieving 100% on five spelling tests in a row!

In math we have been working on addition and subtraction to one thousand. We experimented with different strategies so students can find what works best for each of them. Students will also work on rounding to see if their answers are close, as a method of double checking. The other unit we are completing is geometry: 2D and 3D shapes. Our next units will be patterns and measurement.

We have started working on the matter unit in science and are learning about Tunisia in social studies.

Our class will be celebrating Valentine's Day on February 14 with a little party. If your child is planning on bringing valentines to exchange, I am asking that they bring one for everyone in the class. I will send home a class list so you have all of the names of children in our room.



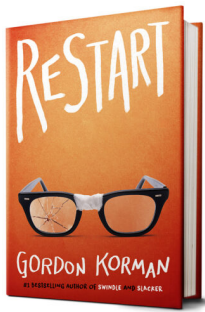
Thanks to all parents and families for their continued support. As always, if you ever have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Mrs. Gurr



Grade 4 News

What a wonderful start to 2024! It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the school year.

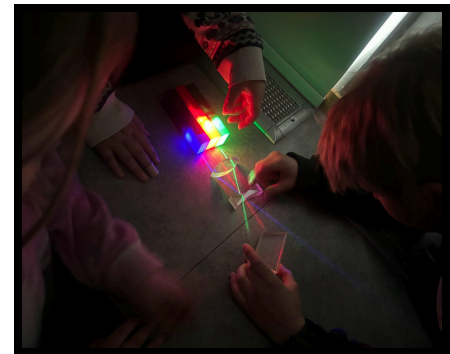


Before our Winter Break, the grade 4s wrapped up our personal narrative stories which allowed us to begin our opinion writing unit. Students have been working hard to write strong opinion statements and we are now learning how to provide reasons and examples to support our opinions. We have continued on with our “Home and School Journals” and students are encouraged to continue to work on improving their writing and to write about different topics each week. In January, we began our new class read aloud called ‘Restart’ written by Gordan Korman.

In December, we wrapped up our addition and subtraction unit and completed a mini-unit on time. In January, we began our multiplication and division unit and have mainly been focussing on multiplication and we will also learn about prime and composite numbers before our February break. Students are encouraged to continue to work on their basic multiplication facts up to 12x12. A reminder that students have access to *Boddle* at home and are welcome to play to continue working on math concepts and facts.

In Science, we wrapped up our Light and Shadows unit and began our new unit on Wheels and Levers. This will be a fun unit learning about simple machines and students will get to apply some of the concepts learned into the Building Devices and Vehicles that Move unit that will follow.

Lastly, in Social Studies we began our next unit on Alberta: The Stories, Histories, and People. We have been learning about the First Nations groups that call Alberta home and will learn about the Fur Trade and Settlers coming to what we now call Canada.



Our newest unit in PE has been basketball and students are enjoying developing skills that we will be able to apply to games. We also spent a week in January playing various dodgeball games and had some unexpected fun in the gym during the snow day.

All the best!

Mrs. Angenent



Grade 5 News

For the month of February the class will focus on our study of making connections as a reading comprehension strategy. Making connections is all about looking at the relationships between things in our world in order to better understand the variety of texts we encounter. Students will come across some new genres (Indigenous oral stories that have been recorded and Greek myths). As we read together students will learn how to look for the connections, as well as to build connections to their own lives.



Over the past few weeks the class has stretched their nonfiction writing skills with some quick reports about a topic of their choice. These reports did not require much research, since students were able to choose a topic they already knew a lot about. As we move into February we will continue to focus on nonfiction writing but on a shared topic that requires students to complete some research. As a class we will learn about the history of New France, before students begin organizing their information as well as researching to fill in any blanks.

During the past few weeks the class has focused our study on our Fractions unit with special attention on understanding fractions, improper fractions and mixed numbers. The class has worked hard to first visualize these different representations, before learning how to add and subtract these numbers, as well as convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers. As we move into February we'll take what we've learned about fractions and apply that to ratios. Throughout these lessons students rely heavily on knowing the multiples of numbers 1 - 12. The more fluent students are with their multiplication and division facts, the easier these problems are to solve.

Notes:

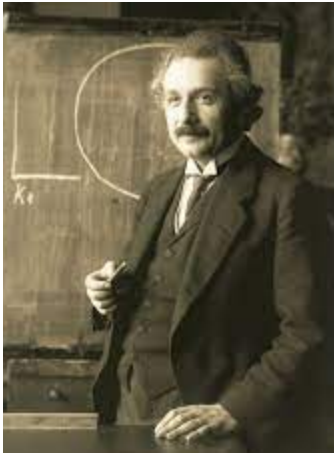
- ★ Thank you to the families who encourage reading and multiplication/division fact practice at home - it really helps your child be successful!
- ★ Thank you Mrs. Pittman for running the best library around:)
- ★ As always, a huge thank you to Parent Council and the hot lunch volunteers
- ★ And never to be left out - thank you to Mrs. West for keeping our crew learning and running smoothly:)



Ms. Mohrmann 

Grade 6 News

It's been delightful to see temperatures move into the positive range this week. We have had a number of flus and colds pass through our classroom, and we are seeing more absences than usual. When students have been away, they will be given condensed catch-up work that they can complete at home or at recess to ensure that they are not missing out on crucial instruction.



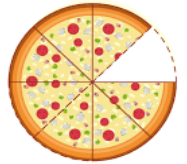
Go Girls! is running Tuesdays at noon in the gym for our Grade 5-6 girls, and Mini Volleyball will continue to run until our February break, with our tournament scheduled for Tuesday, February 27 following the break. Valentine's Day is on the horizon, and our class activities will centre around *Kindness*.

In **Language Arts**, students are working on a biographical essay. This is an opportunity to research famous historical people who have had a significant impact on our world including Albert Einstein, Martin Luther King Jr. Lady Diana Spencer, Nelson Mandela and many others. Students are working on their 5-paragraph essays using a hook-bridge-thesis format in their introductions, transitions between paragraphs and paraphrasing and sourcing their research.

We endeavour to expand our vocabulary in Grade 6. Ask your child about their newest Word of the Day, and I'm sure you will get an earful:)

In **Numeracy**, students are using vertical whiteboard spaces to model fractions, convert improper fractions to mixed numbers, determine common multiples to produce common denominators, add and subtract fractions, simplify fractions using prime factorization, and multiply and divide fractions. Number fluency has become very important! Students are encouraged to practice multiplication/division facts at home, and play math games to bolster their number sense.

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In **Science**, we are studying *Evidence and Investigation* and we will be looking at various types of evidence found at crime scenes and the scientific methods that investigators use to solve crimes. So far, we have learned about footprints and the various methods of collecting footprint evidence. Investigators look for unique identifying wear patterns and nicks on a shoe tread to prove that a suspect was at a certain location. Footprints can indicate speed, direction of travel and whether a suspect was carrying a load.

In **Social Studies**, we are having a close look at democratic rights in Canada including our country's voting history and suffrage movements. Many groups, such as women, Indigenous people, military personnel and inmates were historically excluded from elections in Canada.

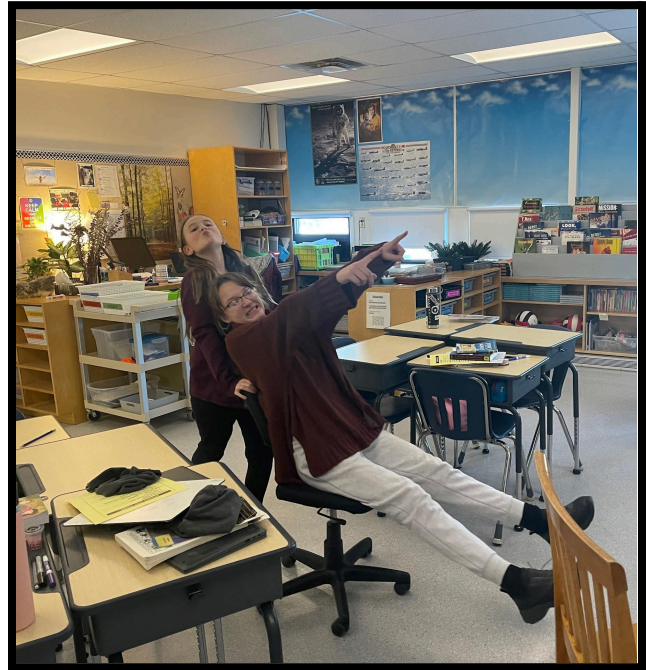


A few Reminders...

- Encourage your child to read at home for 30 minutes everyday by initiating conversations about the books they are reading.
- Math fluency is very important! Please quiz your child on their multiplication facts. I have sent home some tools to help students practice at home.
- Even though the weather is currently mild, please ensure that your child wears warm clothing to school: coat, mitts, toque and scarf.

Ms. Milne

GRADE 6 FUN!



Music Class News

Where has January gone? I can hardly believe we are nearing Groundhog Day and the anticipation that winter will soon give way to spring!

In January, Kindergarten has continued to focus on keeping a steady beat to music with various partner songs as well as with learning about and playing the boomwhackers for the song Snowman Joe.

The Grade 1 class is learning specific instrument names and "timbres" (sounds) through the orchestrated narrative of "Peter and the Wolf" where each character is assigned a different instrument and theme. We will culminate our learning with a colouring and listening party for this masterpiece by Sergei Prokofiev.

Grade 2 has been learning a musical accompaniment for the story "Mortimer" by Robert Munsch. We are having a lot of fun making sounds that fit with the story and look forward to performing for the Grade 6 class.

In Grade 3, we began our much anticipated recorder unit. The children have quickly discovered how you need to blow gently into the recorder to produce the desired sound and starting next week, students will be allowed to bring home their recorders for extra practice, although this is not a requirement. It will be the students responsibility to make sure their recorder is in their backpack for school if they decide to take it home for extra practice!

The Grade 4 class began the ukulele unit and this keen group of musicians is quickly discovering that while learning a new instrument is exciting, it can also be a little bit painful when there are strings involved. I have been proud of their perseverance and look forward to their continued learning!

The Grade 5 class has been exploring form in music using the "Finale" from Rossini's famous William Tell Overture by playing instruments and learning cup passing patterns for the different sections. Ask your child where this piece of music has been used in television shows or advertising 😊. We have also begun exploring form in types of African American music as we anticipate Black History Month in February.

The Grade 6 class has been given free reign of the instruments in the music room to create a soundscape for the story "Stranger in the Woods" that they will perform for the Grade 2 class. It is fun to see their personalities emerge when they are creating!

As always, please feel free to contact me at the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Keep Singing!
Mrs. Neufeld



School Council News

Council met on Monday January 15 and had a shortened meeting as most joined virtually with buses having been canceled that day. Council expressed appreciation to our trustee Mike Oliver, as well as the board for the changes to the inclement weather policy last year and for being on top of bus cancellations this year with the weather we've experienced. The review of the 2023-2024 Annual Education Results has been delayed till our next meeting on Monday February 26 at 3:45pm. The results can be found at:

<https://www.dorothydalgliesh.ca/about/3-year-education-plan>

Alberta parents and guardians are encouraged to participate in the **Early Learning and Child Care Parent Engagement Survey** to help shape child care in the province. Parents are invited to share their thoughts on what defines high-quality child care and the services they expect from child-care operators through an online survey. This feedback will help inform future changes to the child-care system. **The online survey is open until February 11. The survey is linked here: [Early Learning and Child Care Parent Survey](#)**

We will also discuss using funds from the gala and our last casino to purchase wish list items for the staff, and the possibility of having a guest speaker come in to talk with parents and students. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact Michelle at jmmarti@shaw.ca



Hot lunch needs more volunteers for this program to continue offering the free sponsored meals for the students. We have a couple volunteers that will be leaving this year as they're returning to work, or their children graduate from DDS. The free meals are dependent on volunteers coming in and cooking that morning. If you can help, please reach out to Laurell at dds.hotlunch@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO OUR HOT LUNCH SPONSORS

